

O P 191444Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1320
INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

UNCLAS BRAZZAVILLE 000083

FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION
ALSO FOR AF, AF/C, AF/EX

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AMGT](#) [PREL](#) [CF](#) [GB](#)

SUBJECT: DECISION TO FLY FLAG AT HALF STAFF FOR THE LATE FIRST LADY
OF GABON EDITH BONGO ODIMBA

REF: 2 FAM 155.4-5

I have determined that it would be both appropriate and in the best interest of the United States to fly the flag at half-staff as a mark of respect to the deceased spouse of Gabon's President Bongo, also the daughter of the Republic of Congo's President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. This decision is based on the fact that Mrs. Bongo's remains are expected to arrive in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, on Friday, March 20, and her burial is to take place in her father's region of origin on Sunday, March 22.

Under these rather unusual circumstances, I think it would be prudent to follow the lead of Gabon and the mission there. Thus we will fly the flag at half staff from the arrival of her remains at noon on March 20 to noon on March 22.

EASTHAM